

Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 000026 TOSEC 250125

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:PFOR, UNSC, SF

SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO BRITISH ON STRATEGY FOR JANUARY SC
ON MIDDLE EAST DEBATE - ACTION MEMORANDUM (S/S 7525492)

REF: TOSEC 250098

FROM IO/LEWIS/NEA/DAY

1. PROBLEM: HOW TO RESPOND TO BRITISH APPROACH IN NEW
YORK CONCERNING A EUROPEAN PREEMPTIVE DRAFT AT JANUARY 12
SC DEBATE ON MIDDLE EAST.

2. BACKGROUND: UK DEPUTY PERM REP MURRAY DISCUSSED ON
DEC. 30 WITH AMBASSADOR MOYNIHAN AND EARLIER WITH
AMBASSADOR SHERER STRATEGY OPTIONS FOR FORTHCOMING SC
MIDDLE EAST DEBATE. HIS MAIN INTEREST WAS IN EXPLORING
THE POSSIBILITY OF EUROPEANS INTRODUCING A MODERATE DRAFT
RESOLUTION TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE FROM THE ARABS AND NON-
ALIGNED. THE KEY ELEMENTS WOULD BE A REAFFIRMATION OF
242 AND 338 ONLY PLUS A REFERENCE TO THE LEGITIMATE
INTERESTS OF THE PALESTINIANS, AS CRITICAL TO ACHIEVEMENT
OF A LASTING PEACE. THEY ALSO FELT THERE WOULD BE STRONG

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PRESSURE TO AFFIRM PALESTINIAN PARTICIPATION IN FUTURE

PEACE MAKING EFFORTS. THE BRITISH WOULD LIKE OUR VIEWS ON
A PREEMPTIVE DRAFT ON WHICH US COULD ABSTAIN BEFORE
CONSULTING OTHERS. BRITISH ARE AWARE OF ALLON VISIT AND

KNOW WE MAY NOT BE ABLE RESPOND BEFORE NEXT WEEK, BUT
BELIEVE EARLY "PREEMPTION" IMPORTANT IF ARAB APPROACH NOT
TO GAIN MOMENTUM IN SC.

3. OPTIONS: WE COULD INFORM BRITISH IN NEW YORK: A.
U.S. POSITION FOR SC MIDDLE EAST DEBATE IS UNDER
CONSIDERATION AND WHILE WISHING TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH
THE BRITISH WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO DISCUSS STRATEGY UNTIL
AFTER ALLON'S VISIT, JANUARY 7-8. (THIS RESPONSE WOULD
GIVE US TIME TO ASSESS THE ALLON VISIT AND IN THE
MEANTIME WOULD NOT ENCOURAGE ACTIVITY WHICH WE MIGHT LATER
HAVE TO DISAVOW. THE DISADVANTAGE IS THAT IT WOULD ALLOW
VERY LITTLE TIME FOR CONSULTATION WITH BRITISH AND
OTHERS BEFORE SC DEBATE AND WOULD TEND TO DISCOURAGE THE
BRITISH EFFORT). B. U.S. POSITION ON JANUARY SC
MIDDLE EAST D-BATE UNDER CONSIDERATION AND WHILE WE ARE
UNABLE TO DISCUSS OUR VIEWS WITH BRITISH IN DETAIL UNTIL
AFTER ALLON'S VISIT, WE ARE INTERESTED IN THEIR IDEAS
AND WHAT SUPPORT THERE MIGHT BE FOR SUCH A PREEMPTIVE
DRAFT. WE WOULD HOWEVER CLEARLY CAUTION BRITISH THAT
WE CAN GIVE NO INDICATION NOW WHETHER ANY SUCH
PREEMPTIVE RESOLUTION MIGHT MEET OUR APPROVAL OR
ABSTENTION. (THIS RESPONSE WOULD ALLOW MORE TACTICAL
COORDINATION WITH BRITISH AT AN EARLIER TIME, AND
COULD SIGNAL TO THEM AND INDIRECTLY TO ARABS THAT WE
ARE LOOKING FOR A POSITIVE OUTCOME FROM DEBATE AND
WILL NOT AUTOMATICALLY VETO EVERY CONCEIVABLE OUTCOME.
IT WOULD HAVE THE DISADVANTAGE OF ENCOURAGING EUROPEAN
AND NON-ALIGNED CONSULTATIONS TO PRODUCE A MODERATE DRAFT
WHICH WOULD BE MORE DIFFICULT FOR THE US TO DEAL WITH IN
REGARD TO THE ISRAELIS THAN A MORE STRIDENT RESOLUTION.)

4. RECOMMENDATION: WE RECOMMEND OPTION (B), WITH
PROVISO THAT WE CAUTION MOYNIHAN TO MAKE CLEAR WE ARE
IN NO POSITION NOW TO GIVE ANY HINT OF OUR BEING ABLE
TO ACCEPT ANYTHING WHICH GOES BEYOND SIMPLE REAFFIRMATION
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OF SC 242 AND 338. ROY ATHERTON CONCURS IN THIS

RECOMMENDATION. -
APPROVE ' DISAPPROVE

ALTERNATIVELY, THAT YOU APPROVE OPTION A.
APPROVE DISAPPROVE

CLEARED BY S:COVEY. ROBINSON

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NNN

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